

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

W.24/45  
24 November 1967

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Twenty-Fourth Session

Original: English

## REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AND FUTURE PROGRAMME

Statement by H.E. Mr. Morio Aoki, Ambassador  
of Japan, on 23 November 1967

Our Minister has not been able to join this gathering today due to unavoidable reasons at home. Nevertheless, he wishes me, on this happy occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the GATT, to convey to you the deep appreciation of the Japanese Government for the remarkable contribution that GATT has made in advancing the liberalization of world trade.

The rapid expansion of world trade on the basis of GATT principles, not only vindicates the validity of these principles but was also a key element in the successful rehabilitation of Japan's economy in the post-war period. Japan, therefore, although a latecomer to this important organization, has endeavoured to contribute and shall continue to extend its full co-operation to the dynamic efforts of the GATT towards the achievement of free trade on a global and world-wide basis.

This does not mean, however, that the GATT had provided for us an entirely satisfactory basis in the trade field. One of our remaining problems is the continued maintenance by some countries of discriminatory import restrictions against Japan and the application of Article XXXV to Japan by a number of contracting parties. We feel that it is high time that this problem is disposed of.

Addressing myself now to the general question of the future work programme of the GATT, we welcome this opportunity of exchanging views at a high political level.

In the view of my Government, the first task of the GATT is to implement and consolidate the results achieved in the Kennedy Round. We follow with apprehension the recent protectionist trend arising in some quarters, since such trends, if left unchecked could result in the erosion of the progress we have made and in impeding our future efforts for further liberalization of trade. It is a source of satisfaction, therefore, that it seems to be the unanimous view of this important gathering that such protectionist trends must be checked by all means.

As a country heavily dependent on trade, Mr. Chairman, we look forward to further advances in freeing world trade. The GATT has consistently and vigorously pursued this cause guided by the fundamental principle of globalism and not regionalism. My Government strongly feels that in an effort for further liberalization of world trade, the GATT should continue to base itself on this important rule.

That being said, I would now turn to the question of our future work programme on tariffs in the industrial sector. Massive results have been achieved in the Kennedy Round in the tariff reduction in this field and in fact the tariffs on a number of industrial products in industrialized countries would be brought down to a fairly low level. We do not, however, believe that all the work has been done and that there is no more to do. On the contrary, it is the view of my Government that there is still considerable room for further progress. Maintaining the momentum for world free trade which has eventually led the Kennedy Round to success, we should immediately initiate a study in preparation for future advances. It would be desirable to include in the analysis of the tariff situation which will emerge when all Kennedy Round concessions have been fully implemented, the examination of a variety of concrete suggestions so far put forward during the current session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES by the Director-General and delegates and such additional suggestions that may be made in future. We would like to make it known that we are prepared to actively co-operate in the study along this line. Needless to say, now that the tariff barriers have been substantially reduced by the Kennedy Round, it is foreseeable that we would encounter new problems. I wish to express my hope in this connexion that the study of tariff situation, which would undoubtedly form an important part of the future work of the GATT, would be conducted in a realistic and pragmatic manner without losing sight of the positive objective of further world-wide trade liberalization.

As far as non-tariff barriers are concerned, we feel that the proposal emerging from this session for preparing an inventory is a constructive and practical one. It seems to us that when the tariff concessions granted in the Kennedy Round have been implemented the non-tariff barriers would figure more saliently as trade barriers. Accordingly, we welcome the initiative taken by the GATT for tackling this problem.

With respect to the agricultural sector, much has been said by many representatives in the course of the debate in the present session. At this time I would merely say that the examination of the problems which is soon to be launched under the Agricultural Committee should be consultative in character and not a confrontation, and that this probing should be made bearing in mind the possible need of seeking mutually satisfactory solutions to these problems.

Last but not least, I wish to make some remarks about the important question of the trade of developing countries. It is the firm view of my Government that it has made a significant contribution over the past years toward the expansion of market opportunities for developing countries. In particular, we do feel that the Kennedy Round results would provide developing countries with a meaningful increase in the access to developed markets. We are fully conscious, however, that the problem of the trade of developing countries deserves urgent attention and I would reaffirm the intention of my Government to co-operate as far as possible for the expansion of export earnings of these countries. From this point of view, we would endorse the work programme and other conclusions on trade of developing countries tabled at this session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Second UNCTAD will soon be held in New Delhi and we believe that when the results of this conference are made known, it would facilitate focusing our attention in this forum to such measures as are necessary for the expansion of trade of developing countries.

In view of the recent developments in the international financial scene, we deem it is of special importance for the international community to further strengthen its co-operation in the field of trade, and in concluding, I would once again stress the deep interest of Japan as a major trading nation in the furtherance of free trade and would express our determination to co-operate in promoting the liberalization of world trade based on globalism.